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LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In response to the statement the President of the Security Council issued on 4 August 1992 (S/24378) and of the request for further information regarding concentration camps and ethnic cleansing, I submit the following information for review.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the attached information as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

Annex I

UNPROFOR
SECTOR NORTH
3 July 1992

MEMORANDUM

RESTRICTED

Subject: Humanitarian aid

I refer to your subject memo of 1 July 1992.

The football field in Bosanski Novi (BH) is clearly visible from the town of Dvor in the UNPA. Further to our many previous reports on this, let me clarify that our sense of frustration is not, as stated in Mr. Magnusson's subject memo to the FC, our "inability to investigate this matter". I believe you have received a stream of reports not only of Bosanski Novi, but also for other flash points along the border with BH (Bihac, Cazin, Velika Kladusa and Bosanski Dubica). In those reports, we highlighted the following points.

We believe the football field detainees are only a tip of the iceberg involving the concerted action of local Serbian authorities in BH trying to establish a Serbian Republic of BH, free of Muslims. In that process, the Mayors, the Milicijia and TDF of Bosanski Novi, acting in unison with their counterparts, not only in the UNPA (Dvor and Kostanijca), but also with Bosanski Dubica, Banja Luka, Prijedor, Sancki Host and Kljuc. The Serbs appear to be engaged in a determined process of forcefully disarming Muslims where they are clearly a small encircled minority, such as in Bosanski Novi, or besieging their city totally, such as in Bihac. Apparently the football field is the holding ground where Muslim groups are detained while their houses are being "searched", the men isolated and transported to concentration camps.

The UNHCR representative and Civil Affairs have pieced together reports from Muslims who recently have taken refuge under UNPROFOR protection in Dvor and Kostanijca. There are reported concentration camps at the following locations:

- KERATERM: Located at a railroad station in Prijedor en route to Banja Luka. 100-200 Muslims believed to be here under extremely bad conditions.

- TRNOPOLJE: Also located at a railroad station in Prijedor, direction Banja Luka. A refugee camp for women, children and old men.

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- OMARSKA: Located in a purely Serbian village. Reportedly a camp for Muslim men and local Muslim authorities prior to Serbian take-over of control, particularly in Prijedor.

- MANJACA: Outside Banja Luka. A large camp reportedly including Croatian soldiers taken prisoner in the fighting in Kostanijca.

The treatment of Muslims and other minorities in the camps is reportedly atrocious, with regular beatings, deprivation of food and water, poor shelter, etc.

Today in a meeting with the ICRC and UNHCR, the above subject of humanitarian aid was discussed. The ICRC informed us that they will be deployed in BH and took the information we had on the subject. They also informed us that the ICRC will deploy a delegate or two, specifically in Sector North, to be located either in Vojnic or Glina. This in our view is a very positive step which we had recommended to the ICRC as a matter of urgency.

Our frustration arises from our inability to do anything other than write reports and stand by since UNPROFOR has no operational responsibilities across the border. In recent days, the situation has deteriorated and has now begun to spill over to the UNPA. We have seen a mounting number of desperate people who have crossed over to seek refuge and protection from UNPROFOR. Yesterday, one Mustafa Ogorinac swam across river Una at [illegible] in the morning from a camp in Bosanski Dubica. He is now under UNPROFOR protection along with two other persons. He shows signs of physical abuse and punishment.

In a separate communication (CIV/AFF/06/96, dated 30 June 1992) I appealed to the Special Envoy of the UNHCR for one temporary measure to help to cope with the situation while waiting for the ICRC and UNHCR to resume their operations in BH. We have requested a minibus with driver to help in transporting the escapees to safety since UN vehicles are not to be used for humanitarian purposes. Any assistance you can lend on the acquisition of the 16-20 seater minibus and driver is most appreciated.

To: Ms. Y. Auger, DDCA (Belgrade)

cc: Mr. M. Magnusson (Zagreb)

Annex II

Public announcement published by the News Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 August 1992

The Presidency and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina have published a list of the detention camps existing on the territory of the Republic at present under the occupation of the aggressor. There exists reliable information that such camps also exist in Serbia and Montenegro.

The aggressors, in pursuit of their planned "ethnic cleansing", have packed into these camps the entire non-Serbian population of given areas. We calculate that some 130,000 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are at present concentrated in 96 such camps.

The world community is shocked by these figures. Sadly, at the same time, there exists a tendency in certain publications and in certain circles to claim that such camps only exist on "the other side". Our side.

The Presidency and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina categorically state that on the territories under the control of its legal authority, no such camps exist. On the contrary, this Government has for a long time now been inviting humanitarian organizations, as well as other international bodies, and in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to come here and verify for themselves this stated fact. The Presidency and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina now renew this invitation, from the motive of demonstrating as clearly as they can the sufferings of these incarcerated people, and of having them set free as soon as possible.